



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 25, 2022

Dear Sahuarita Families:

As you know, Sahuarita USD, along with school districts across the State and the Nation, has been operating with a bus driver shortage. We have always taken great pride in offering safe, reliable, and quality services. Sahuarita USD provided transportation for all routes during the first two weeks of school by utilizing every available properly licensed driver employed by the District, including office staff, mechanics, and drivers from Continental ESD.

Despite extraordinary efforts to maintain traditional operations, it is necessary to put into place a temporary contingency plan so that all of the assigned routes can reliably be fulfilled. A small number of routes will take turns being suspended for a week. It is a week-long sacrifice so that the greater operation can be maintained with fidelity and quality.

The reason for the implementation of the rolling suspensions is simple: we do not have enough drivers to serve our current routes. We currently have a deficit of 11 drivers. Furthermore, we are transporting approximately 3,400 students daily, in contrast to about 2,900 each day last year.

We have created a schedule (included with this letter) of the rolling bus route suspensions to give families as much notice as possible. In anticipation of the temporary bus route suspensions, please have an alternate plan ready for your child to either transport them to and from school, carpool or have child care available, if necessary. If you are unable to arrange for alternate transportation or encounter an extraordinary challenge, please notify your child's school.

This week, the community did an outstanding job helping out as you answered the call to transport your children to and from school. Many of you also worked with your neighbors to create carpools to assist those who needed help. It is truly a community effort. We know this causes hardships for families, and we are grateful for the support, resilience, and cooperation of our Sahuarita families. Last evening, the SUSD Governing Board approved a significant pay increase for school transportation personnel, and strong recruiting efforts are ongoing. The objective is to stabilize operations and be back to full service levels as soon as possible.

Please let anyone you know who may be interested in a job as a bus driver that there are [positions available](#). We have increased the base pay of our bus drivers to \$18.20/hour. Drivers are paid during training and can earn benefits and bonuses. We will continue to proactively recruit and retain drivers, and should we be able to hire new drivers, we will look at restoring routes as we can.

Office of Community Outreach

 520.625.3502

 350 W. Sahuarita Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629

 www.susd30.us

Working as a team to help every student succeed.



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Temporary Bus Route Suspension Schedule

	Dates of Suspension (Monday-Friday)	Routes Suspended
Week 1	08/29/2022 - 09/02/2022	Route 1 (SPS, SIS, SMS, SHS) Route 2 (SPS, SMS, SHS) Route 3 (SPS, SMS, SHS) Route 16 (SMS, SHS) Route 26 (WRS, ATS, WGHS)
Week 2	09/05/2022-09/09/2022	Route 5 (SIS, ATS, WGHS) Route 7 (SPS, SMS, SHS) Route 10 (SPS, SIS) Route 15 (SIS, CVES, WGHS) Route 33 (WRS, SHS)
Week 3	09/12/2022 - 09/16/2022	Route 9 (SPS, SMS, SHS) Route 17 (SIS, CVES, WGHS) Route 23 (SMS) Route 24 (SHS) Route 32 (WRS, ATS, WGHS)
Week 4	09/19/2022 - 09/23/2022	Route 4 (SPS, SMS, SHS) Route 20 (SMS, SHS) Route 21 (SMS, SHS) Route 29 (WRS, ATS, WGHS) Route 39 (SOP)
Week 5	09/26/2022 - 09/30/2022	Route 31 (SIS, ATS, WGHS) Route 34 (SHS) Route 36 (WRS, ATS, SHS) Route 38 (SMS) Route 40 (SOP)
Week 6	10/03/2022 - 10/07/2022	Route 12 (SIS, CVES) (SHS/PM ONLY) Route 19 (WRS, CVES) (WGHS/PM ONLY) Route 25 (WRS, ATS) (WGHS/PM ONLY) Route 1 (SPS, SIS, SMS, SHS) Route 16 (SMS, SHS)
10/10/2022 - 10/14/2022 FALL BREAK		

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